

**Example of a grant awarded from Funds set up with Essex Community Foundation (ECF) and that received matched funding from the Proceeds of Crime Scheme also managed by ECF:**

For nearly 25 years, North Avenue Youth Centre (NAYC) has been providing young people in Chelmsford with a safe place to go and interesting activities to take part in. This is not only to provide an opportunity for the young people to develop socially among their peers, which they might not otherwise have, but also to reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism which had previously been a problem in the area.

NAYC is based in an area of Chelmsford with high deprivation, meaning that local families cannot typically afford for their children to take part in extra-curricular activities. The purpose-built centre accommodates a range of activities including both sports and lessons on practical topics. The volunteers teach the young people about dangers, including child exploitation and gang violence, as well as workshops on healthy eating, mental health and wellbeing, and personal safety.

A grant of £2,000 from the **FW Charitable Fund** has contributed to NAYC's core costs, enabling them to continue running and offering their diversionary activities to local young people. What makes the work of NAYC so impactful is that their volunteers take the time to build rapport with the young people who attend their venue, which creates the opportunity for further engagement through trust. They also never turn away a family or a visitor if they cannot afford to pay to attend the clubs. Our support means they can continue welcoming families who need their support, which in turn keeps more young people from falling into the cycle of crime.

**Below:** some of the young people attending various activities courtesy of the NAYC

